

Message Text

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7272
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DA ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3490

EXDIS HANDLE AS NODIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

MOGADISCIO FOR DICK MOOSE

STATE PASS WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK
SUBJECT: STATUS OF LAGOS "MINI-SUMMIT" ON RHODESIA

1. I TOOK DOBELLE, WISE, GATES, AND LEGRAND THIS EVENING
TO JOE GARBA'S HOSE FOR A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF OUR
PLANNING OF THE SCHEDULE FOR THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. GARBA WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR MUSA AND BY AMBASSADOR SANU, WHO IS
CHAIRMAN OF THE FMG'S WORKING GROUP FOR THE VISIT.

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2. I ASKED GARBA TO BRING US UP TO DATE ON THE FMG'S EFFORTS
TO ORGANIZE A MEETING ON RHODESIA DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT. HE
SAID OBASANJO HAD TELEPHONED NYERERE, WHO HAD AGREED WITH THE CONCEPT
OF SUCH A MEETING BUT WANTED TO SEND BEN MK PA INSTEAD OF COMING
HIMSELF. BEFORE LEAVING NEW YORK GARBA HAD ALREADY PUT THE IDEA TO
SITEKE MWALE, WHO HAD CALLED KAUNDA AND HAD SUBSEQUENTLY INFORMED

GARBA THAT KAUNDA WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COME EITHER BUT THAT MWALE MIGHT. AS FOR "THE OTHERS", TO WHOM HE REFERRED SOMEWHAT VAGUELY, GARBA SAID HE WAS STILL WAITING FOR RESPONSES.

3. WHEN I QUERIED GARBA SPECIFICALLY ABOUT MOGWE (KNOWING FROM GABORONE'S 793 THAT MOGWE LEFT GABORONE YESTERDAY FOR OTHER FL CAPITALS), HE SEEMED EVEN LESS CERTAIN AND LEFT ME WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT HE MIGHT HAVE FORGOTTEN TO CONTACT BOTSWANA. (I CONTINUE TO THINK IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF I COULD BE AUTHORIZED TO SHARE WITH GARBA THE CURRENT EFFORTS OF KHAMA TO BRING OFF SOME KIND OF FRONTLINE MEETING OF HIS OWN. GABORONE'S 794 SAID OK, STATE'S 70425 SAID DON'T).

4. I THEN ASKED GARBA ABOUT PAULO JORGE. HE REPLIED, "WELL, WE'LL HAVE TO SEE TO THAT." WHEN I ASKED ABOUT BRITISH PARTICIPATION, GARBA ADMITTED HE HAD ORIGINALLY ENVISAGED INVITING CALLAGHAN. HOWEVER, WITH THE FRONTLINE HEADS OF STATE NOW PRESUMABLY SENDING THEIR MINISTERS INSTEAD OF COMING THEMSELVES, GARBA WASN'T SO SURE ABOUT BRITISH PARTICIPATION. THE FMG WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE BRITISH "TACTICS" REGARDING THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, AND THEY HAD THEREFORE NOT RPT NOT TAKEN STEPS TO INVITE DAVID OWEN. I SAID THAT US AND BRITISH TACTICS WERE THE SAME, THAT IS, TO TRY TO GET ALL-PARTIES TALKS GOING. GARBA REPEATED HIS FEAR THAT THE BRITISH WERE ABANDONING THE A-A PLAN. I SAID IT WAS MY IMPRESSION THAT THE BRITISH HAD TALKED TOUGH WITH SMITH'S PEOPLE IN THE GRAHAM/GAYLORD TALKS, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THAT THEY WERE NO MORE ABANDONING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE A-A PLAN THAN WE WERE.

5. I THEN TOLD GARBA I HAD NOTED WITH SPECIAL INTEREST ONE OF THE FINAL PARAGRAPHS IN OBASANJO'S MARCH 6 LETTER TO PRESIDENT CARTER. THIS IS WHERE OBASANJO CALLS FOR CONTINUED EFFORTS TO IMPLEMENT WHATEVER ASPECTS OF THE A-A PLAN HAVE BEEN FOUND ACCEPTABLE TO ALL PARTIES, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TAKING FURTHER STEPS TO NEGOTIATE AREAS OF DIVERGENCE. I SAID IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THE FMG AND THE A-A PLAN WERE NOT VERY FAR APART. GARBA SAID HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT THE NEXT STEP IS FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO CALL ON CARVER AND CHAND TO REPORT ON THE STATUS OF THEIR FULFILLMENT OF THEIR MANDATE. "THEN LET EVERYONE DISCUSS THE MATTER UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE COUNCIL." I ASKED WHO WAS INCLUDED IN "EVERYONE", NOTING THE PROBLEM MUZOREWA HAD RECENTLY ENCOUNTERED IN THIS REGARD. GARBA SAID MUZOREWA COULD NOT SPEAK AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, NOR COULD ANYONE ELSE. THEY COULD SPEAK ONLY AS HEADS OF THEIR INDIVIDUAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND SMITH SHOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO SPEAK AT ALL. "AFTER ALL, YOU'VE KEPT TELLING US YOU WERE GOING TO GET RID OF HIM."

6. GARBA SAID HE WAS STILL TRYING TO GET NKOMO AND MUGABE TO COME TO LAGOS. HE HAD HOPED THEY WOULD COME LAST WEEK. NOW HE THOUGHT PERHAPS THEY WOULD MAKE IT THIS WEEK. (IT IS NOT RPT NOT CLEAR THAT GARBA HAS IN FACT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE ANY EFFECTIVE CONTACT YET WITH THE TWO PF LEADERS. LUSAKA'S 863 SAID GARBA HAD ASKED HIS AMBASSADORS IN LUSAKA AND MAPUTO TO TRY.)

7. COMMENT: IT IS CLEAR THAT GARBA HAS NOT GOT VERY FAR YET IN ORGANIZING HIS RHODESIAN PARLEY. THE PARLOUS STATE OF THE FMG'S COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM DOESN'T HELP. GARBA SAID HE'S THOUGHT HE MIGHT FLY TO THE FRONTLINE MEETING IN NAMPULA WHERE HE COULD "TALK WITH ALL OF THEM TOGETHER." (I HAD INFORMED HIM YESTERDAY OF THAT MEETING.) I REMINDED HIM OF A BBC REPORT THIS MORNING TO THE EFFECT THAT ONLY KAUNDA AND MACHEL APPARENTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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HAD BEEN THERE. IF IN FACT FL FOREIGN MINISTERS DO AGREE TO COME TO

LAGOS FOR TALKS APRIL 2, WE WILL WISH TO FIND OUT TO WHAT EXTENT AND IN

WHAT MANNER OBASANJO MAY WANT TO ASSOCIATE HIMSELF AND PRESIDENT CARTER WITH THOSE TALKS. WE RAISED THIS QUESTION THIS EVENING WITH GARBA BUT IT WAS CLEAR HE HAD NOT YET THOUGHT IT THROUGH. EASUM

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